

We claim:

1. A process for removal of the esterification catalyst by
5 separation from a crude plasticizer ester obtained by
reacting a dicarboxylic acid with C₈-C₁₃ alcohols, by treating
the crude ester with an aqueous alkali solution in the range
from 10 to 100°C and then separating the aqueous alkaline
10 phase comprising the hydrolyzed esterification catalyst by
gravitational phase separation, which comprises treating the
crude ester, prior to or during the phase separation, with a
salt of a di- or polyvalent metal, or with a mixture of these
salts.
- 15 2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the esterification
catalyst used comprises a Lewis-acid compound of an element
of the 4th main group or of the 4th transition group of the
Periodic Table of the Elements.
- 20 3. A process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the
esterification catalyst used comprises a compound of
titanium.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein, prior
25 to the gravitational phase separation, the crude ester has a
content of from 0.1 to 5% by weight of monosalt of
dicarboxylic half-ester.
5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the
30 salt used of a di- or polyvalent metal comprises a calcium
salt or aluminum salt.
6. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein use is made of an
aluminum salt.
- 35 7. A process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the amount of
aluminum salt used is from 0.05 to 30 mmol per liter of the
aqueous alkaline phase.

40

45